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## Book Review

### **Vascular Surgery: a comprehensive review (6th Edition)**

Wesley S. Moore, Ed.

WB Saunders, London, 2002.

939 pages, price £150.

This book provides a concise yet broad overview of vascular surgery. The chapters encompass all aspects of vascular diseases along with related medical and basic science disciplines. An original and useful aspect of the book is a set of questions that concludes each chapter and helps the reader with self-examination. Each author concludes his chapter with a brief list of questions that represent an adequate survey of the subject covered. Unlike many other textbooks on vascular surgery, this book emphasises the basic sciences and is particularly helpful to the vascular specialist in training.

Following a brief history of vascular surgery, the opening chapters cover basic science issues, including vascular embryology, anatomy, physiology and pharmacology. A comprehensive and practical section on surgical anatomy in which surgical exposure to all territories of the vascular system is well summarised. A number of chapters are dedicated to medical disciplines. The complexity of hypercoagulable states is clearly discussed as well as the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and the vascular implications of diabetes mellitus. A comprehensive description of haemodynamic principles precedes the chapter on the vascular laboratory. The basic principles and principal criteria for duplex scan evaluation and radiological imaging are provided in the subsequent chapters. Endovascular treatment is summarised in two different chapters (*Endovascular surgery* and *Endovascular grafting*), the first encompassing principles and techniques (peripheral stent, atherectomy, etc.) used for interventional radiology rather than surgery. The second one covers the more recent topic of endovascular techniques for aortic aneurysm repair. However, this single chapter is not designed to provide a comprehensive review of the indications, techniques, and details involved in endovascular aortic

grafting, a subject more appropriately covered in a separate textbook. Furthermore, the section on endovascular repair fails to provide an up-to-date review on the state of the art of this rapidly evolving field.

The major portion of the book deals with nonsurgical and surgical management of both aneurysmal and occlusive vascular pathologies. Each vascular region is well covered in a distinctive chapter providing useful information on natural history, diagnosis, indications for treatment, surgical techniques, and results. Overall, the chapters are well written, informative, and concise. Nevertheless, chapters on the same topic are not well aligned, e.g. chronic lower extremity ischaemia, acute arterial occlusion, and thrombolysis are discussed in separate parts of the book. The section on cerebrovascular disease gives a good description of literature data and state of the art of randomised trials. Controversial topics are explored such as treatment for acute stroke, tandem lesions, and combined carotid and coronary occlusive disease. Unfortunately, the chapter does not mention the eversion technique for carotid endarterectomy, which today is a common surgical procedure. Several interesting chapters cover some difficult issues in vascular practice such as vascular trauma, prosthetic graft infection, and non-infectious complications. The final section, dedicated to venous and lymphatic diseases, rightly provides particular relevance to the challenging topic of portal hypertension.

This book addresses all the main problems faced by a vascular surgeon. It is easy to understand and very informative. It is not as long (or expensive) as other major textbooks such as Rutherford, but it does provide a comprehensive review of vascular disease and the related medical and basic science disciplines. It will be of interest to all vascular surgeons, especially vascular specialists in training.

**P. Cao and P. De Rango**  
Italy

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